



State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality

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DEQ Issues Operating Permits for Acadia Power Station near Eunice

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued air and water operating permits to Acadia Power Partners for an electric generating plant 3 miles south of Eunice in Acadia Parish, DEQ Secretary J. Dale Givens announced today. The DEQ decision clears the way for the company to begin construction activities at the site.

The Acadia Power Station is classified as a minor source of toxic air pollutants. It plans to discharge low volume wastewaters, cooling tower byproducts, maintenance wastewaters and stormwater runoff. The Louisiana Public Service Commission has identified the accelerated development of new electric generation capacity, such as the proposed station, to assure that Louisiana has adequate generation capacity to meet its needs.

As part of the process used to reach a decision, agency officials reviewed and responded to comments submitted in writing and to those made at public hearings conducted by DEQ.

"There has been tremendous public concern expressed regarding this facility," noted Givens. "In response to that concern, DEQ conducted an exhaustive review of the permit applications. We have concluded that applications submitted by Acadia Power Partners (APP) comply with all applicable federal and state statutes and regulations and that APP is capable of meeting permit limits."

Moreover, DEQ has determined, (1) that the social and economic benefits of the proposed project will greatly outweigh its adverse environmental impacts; and (2) that APP has minimized or avoided adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent possible. This includes an extensive scientific investigation into the use of the Chicot Aquifer System for the power station's operations. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development is the state agency charged with the responsibility to study and monitor the state's groundwater resources. Its analysis shows that the aquifer is not presently at risk from the facility's additional proposed groundwater withdrawal. DEQ has determined that this study reflects a correct application of pertinent standards and is scientifically valid.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality conducts an aggressive program of permit issuance and permit regulation. All facilities that discharge into the air or public water bodies in Louisiana are required by law to obtain a permit from the state. DEQ is unequivocally committed to enforcing those laws.